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To: Division Superintendents
Date: 7/28/05 5:19PM
Subject: Redesigned DOE Web Page

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) will unveil a new look to its Web site home page on Monday, August 1. The new home page has been redesigned to provide a cleaner, less cluttered look by arranging information and links by topic and interest.

At the same time, a redesign of the School Report Card will be available online. Report card information will be presented in an easier-to-read format and in PDF for ease in printing and distributing to households without Internet access.

School divisions are reminded that the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB) requires local educational agencies to produce annual report cards and make them available to the public:

"...A local educational agency that receives assistance under this part shall prepare and disseminate an annual local educational agency report card..."

Even though VDOE produces an annual report card for all Virginia public schools and divisions and posts these report cards on its Web site, it is the school divisions' responsibility under the law to publish and disseminate report cards:

"The local educational agency shall ... publicly disseminate the information ... to all schools in the school district served by the local educational agency and to all parents of students attending those schools in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, provided in a language that the parents can understand, and make the information widely available through public means, such as posting on the Internet, distribution to the media, and distribution through public agencies."

While schools and school divisions have the option of presenting the required information in a format of their choosing, the VDOE encourages schools and school divisions to provide a link on the home pages of their Web sites directly to the VDOE's Virginia School Report Card page. If this option is chosen, schools and school divisions are asked to link to the main Virginia School Report Card location at <http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/src/index.shtml> rather than providing a link to the VDOE home page. Schools and divisions also are advised to print PDF versions and make copies available at locations convenient to parents and the public.

Information on the redesigned home page will also be forwarded to Public Information Officers and Webmasters.